

#### REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, applicants submit a replacement sheet in which Fig. 1 is amended to change reference numeral "6" to "4" to be consistent with the specification.

Applicants have amended the specification to include the required section headings and to enter the corrections noted by the Examiner in paragraph 6 of the Official Action. A revised abstract is submitted herewith.

In response to the §112 rejection of Claims 5 and 8-10, applicants have amended Claims 5 and 7 to adopt the suggestions made by the Examiner. Claim 5 is also amended to recite that a first portion of each pin protrudes into the base plate and a second portion of each pin projects out of the support surface of the base plate. Claim 7 is also amended to recite that the purpose of the undercuts is to anchor the pins in the friction lining material. Claims 8 and 10 are amended to be consistent with Claim 5. No new matter is involved in the amendment of the specification and the claims.

The claimed invention relates to a lining support plate formed in a casting mold (Figure 3) wherein retaining elements in the form of pins 6a-6d are partly inserted into the casting mold and protrude into a casting cavity. A casting melt introduced into the casting cavity surrounds the protruding portions of the pins which are not embedded in the casting mold. When the melt is solidified, the protruding portions of the pins are embedded in the cast material. After the cast material is removed from the mold, a first portion of each pin protrudes into the lining support plate and a second portion of each pin projects from a support surface of the lining support plate to anchor a friction lining material to the support plate. The pins are independent of each other and are not integrally formed with the plate.

Claim 5 as amended recites a lining support plate with a cast metal base plate made of cast iron with a plurality of retaining elements projecting out of a support surface which

receives a friction lining material. Claim 5 further recites that the retaining elements are individual pins which are cast into the base plate during the production, and wherein a first portion of each pin protrudes into the base plate and a second portion of each pin projects out of the support surface of the base plate.

The advantage of introducing the pins during the casting of the base plate material is described at page 3, paragraph 6 of the specification. In comparison with producing the retaining elements of the cast material itself, the introduction of pins during the casting offers the advantage that the pins cannot be sheared off and are anchored better in the lining support plate.

In the Official Action, Claims 5, 7, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Bunker US 6,279,222. Regarding Claim 5, the Examiner asserted that the Bunker brake pad includes a cast metal base plate (back plate 12) made from cast iron with a support surface (12a) to receive a friction lining material (block 14 of friction material), wherein retaining elements or pins (projections 28) are cast into the base plate 12 during production, such that a portion of the pins 28 projects out of the support surface 12a of the base plate 12.

In contrast to the claimed invention, the projections 28 of the Bunker brake pad are integral with the back plate 12 (col. 3, line 10) and are made from the same cast material of the back plate 12. Each of the projections 28 is in the form of a rib which extends across a recess 26. There are eight projections 28 which form a lattice with the six transverse ribs crossing the two longitudinal ribs (col. 3, lines 20-24). Because the ribs of the Bunker brake pad are merely made of cast material, the ribs are susceptible to being sheared off during the operation of the brake pad.

In comparison with Claim 5, no individual pins are disclosed or suggested by the Bunker reference. Moreover, Bunker does not disclose or suggest the limitations that a first portion of each pin protrudes into the base plate and a second portion of each

pin projects out of the support surface of the base plate. Thus, applicants submit that Claim 5 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the Bunker reference.

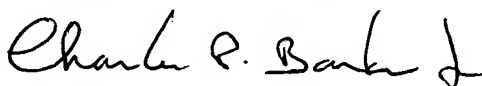
Dependent Claim 7 recites that the second portions of the pins projecting out of the base plate have undercuts to anchor the pins in the friction lining material. Since the Bunker brake pad does not include any individual pins provided with undercuts to anchor the pins in the friction lining material, applicants submit that Claim 7 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the Bunker reference.

Dependent Claim 8 recites that the first portions of the pins cast into the base plate are contoured. Since the Bunker brake pad does not include any individual pins provided with contoured portions cast into the base plate, applicants submit that Claim 8 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the Bunker reference.

In response to the Examiner's rejections of dependent Claims 6 and 10, applicants submit that these claims define patentable subject matter over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed above in connection with Claim 5.

For the above reasons, applicants submit that Claims 5-10 are patentable and requests allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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December 17, 2009